



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR PLANTER'S GRAIN AND PETRONILLA COOPERATIVES**

**ROBSTOWN, TEXAS**, July 6, 2004 – Bryan Daniel, Texas USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today \$349,240 in economic development to strengthen rural communities in Texas, as part of the Bush Administration's ongoing commitment to invest and bolster programs for rural America.

Planter's Grain and Petronilla Cooperatives, received a Value-Added Product to Market Development Grant to provide working capital to develop a new emerging market in Central and Southern Mexico for identity preserved grain sorghum produced by South Texas Producers.

"This grant will bring new economic opportunities and job creation for rural Texans," said Daniel. "Planter's Grain and Petronilla Cooperatives will give rural residents the opportunity to expand and improve local businesses and economies."

The VAPG program is designed to provide agricultural producers or rural businesses with grant funds to further refine agricultural commodities, increasing their value to consumers. The grants will also provide capital to allow producers to better market their products so that they can better compete in domestic and international markets. Recipients are required to obtain matching funds, which will double the impact of the USDA grants. Funding of individual recipients will be contingent upon meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

For more information regarding this and other USDA Rural Development programs and eligibility requirements, contact the Alice Local Office at 361-668-0453, Ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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*USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Utilities Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's rural residents.*

**For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.**

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).